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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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John Kay Spence

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EXAMINER

YI, STELLA KIM

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/541,164	Applicant(s) SPENCE, JOHN KAY	
	Examiner Stella Yi	Art Unit 1791	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7,10-12,19 and 24-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7,10-12, 19, and 24-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-12, 19, and 24-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over VEALE (3,618,181) and in further view of PLOUGH (3,917,216).

Regarding Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 19, 24-26, VEALE discloses a method and apparatus for casting concrete whereby a series or stack of concrete bodies (panels) can be formed, one on top of the other by the use of a single mold without having to disassemble the mold after a body has been formed and prior to making the succeeding body (Col.1, lines 30-37). The casting device (10) comprises ends (12) and (14) along with sides (16) and (18) forming a rectangular frame. At each corner of the frame are jack assemblies (20), (22), (23), and (24) comprising a jack pole (26) (column) with holes (28), each column has a collar (82) with arms (86) and (88). Holes (locating means) (28) in these arms are brought in to register with holes (36) in rods (32) and (34) and held at that level by L-pins (90). Along with the said collar with arms, a hydraulic cylinder (30) located at the top of jack pole (26) together operates the beam (60) to define a forming space for the subsequent panels wherein the space corresponds to the thickness of a plurality of said panels (Col.3, lines 71-75 through Col.4, lines 1-5). Each

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column comprises a first upright member supported from a base member wherein the said holes (locating elements) are spaced vertically along the upright member (see Figure 1). VEALE is silent to a second upright member with a pivotable base and top-piece that can engage one side member to secure in locating engagement with the first upright member. However, PLOUGH discloses a quick-release fastening device for fixedly but releasably securing together the outer end edges of two pivotally connected right angle sections of a concrete column form (Abstract), and further including a retaining element (96) provided to retain the first and second upright members (Col.6, lines 25-44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize a pivotable base and top-piece taught by PLOUGH in the formwork of HALBERSTADT in order to provide secure column during a concrete pouring process and releasability of the column formwork from the hardened concrete column (Col.2, lines 1-23).

Regarding Claims 5-7, VEALE discloses the said formwork comprising holes (locating means) (28) in these arms are brought in to register with holes (36) in rods (32) and (34) and held at that level by L-pins (90). In the raising operation when the holes in arms (86) and (88) come into register with holes (36) of jack rods 32) and (34) L-pins (90) are inserted an T-pin (92) placed in hole (28) immediately below collar (82) thus distributing the weight of the casting frame on poles (26) of jack assemblies (20), (22), (23), and (24) (Col.4, lines 70-75 through Col.5, lines 1-7).

Regarding Claim 12, VEALE discloses a bond breaking agent, such as, for example, a heavy cardboard sheet preferably having waxed or equivalent surfaces is

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used to treat the upper face of the panels which define the bed of the subsequent panels in order to avoid adherence to the set material of the first body as well as to the bottom of the succeeding body (Col.2, lines 24-29).

Regarding Claims 27-30, VEALE discloses a method and apparatus for casting concrete whereby a series or stack of concrete bodies (panels) can be formed, one on top of the other by the use of a single mold without having to disassemble the mold after a body has been formed and prior to making the succeeding body (Col.1, lines 30-37).

The apparatus (formwork) comprises:

- concrete blocks (base) (67) (see Figure 1);

- a plurality of sides (12), (14), (16), and (18) wherein at least one wall member is fixed in a vertical position (see Figure 1). The plurality of sides make up the rectangular form or frame; and concrete slab is casted and spread within the said frame (Col.4, lines 50-52). Since the concrete slab is poured and spread within the frame, the width of the concrete panels will end up equaling the height of at least one of the sides of the frame in order to produce the desired panel dimensions;

- a plurality of corners disposed at intersections of said sides and includes two adjacent corners supporting one side member (see Figure 1);

- the said frame that includes said base, sides and corners is set to receive a batch of concrete (Co.3, line 29) ;

- the frame is raised at a new elevated level and the casting cycle is repeated (Col.5, lines 6-7) in order to form the subsequent said concrete panels;

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each said adjacent corners include jack assemblies (20), (22), (23), and (24) (upright members) comprising a jack pole (26) (column) with holes (28), each column has a collar (82) with arms (86) and (88). Holes (locating means) (28) in these arms are brought in to register with holes (36) in rods (32) and (34) and held at that level by L-pins (90). Along with the said collar with arms, a hydraulic cylinder (30) located at the top of jack pole (26) together operates the beam (60) to define a forming space for the subsequent panels wherein the space corresponds to the thickness of a plurality of said panels (Col.3, lines 71-75 through Col.4, lines 1-5).

VEALE is silent to a second upright member pivotable in a vertical plane between a first and second position. However, PLOUGH discloses a corner fastening device for concrete column form shaped in rectangular panels. The form is comprised of two composite right angle sections which are hingedly or pivotally connected together in order that they are capable of being swung toward and away from each other between a closed position (first position) wherein the panels assume their quadrilateral relationship and define a rectangular void within which wet concrete may be poured for column-forming purposes, and an open position (second position) of release wherein the column form is capable of being removed laterally from the hardened concrete column (Col.2, lines 6-15). The framework comprises vertical frame members (24) and horizontal top and bottom frame members (26) (Col.4, lines 17-20). The frame panels (14) and (16) are hingedly connected together along adjacent vertical edges by a vertical hinge (52) that's secured to upright vertical frame member (24) (Col.5, lines 23-34). The device is a quick-release fastening device for fixedly but releasably securing

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together the vertical outer end edges of two pivotally connected right angle sections of a concrete column form (Abstract, Col.2, lines 24-27), and further including a retaining element (96) provided to retain the first and second upright members (Col.6, lines 25-44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have utilized the said upright vertical frame member that is pivotable from a closed position (first position) to an open position (second position) as taught by PLOUGH in the formwork of HALBERSTADT in order to provide secure column during a concrete pouring process and releasability of the column formwork from the hardened concrete column (Col.2, lines 1-23).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 06/02/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. Applicant Argues that new claims 27-30 are not taught by the prior art Veale and Plough. Examiner respectfully disagrees with the Applicant's arguments and would like to point out the reason(s) as discussed in the rejection:

Regarding Claims 27-30, VEALE discloses a method and apparatus for casting concrete whereby a series or stack of concrete bodies (panels) can be formed, one on top of the other by the use of a single mold without having to disassemble the mold after a body has been formed and prior to making the succeeding body (Col.1, lines 30-37).

The apparatus (formwork) comprises:

concrete blocks (base) (67) (see Figure 1);

a plurality of sides (12), (14), (16), and (18) wherein at least one wall member is fixed in a vertical position (see Figure 1). The plurality of sides make up the rectangular form or frame; and concrete slab is casted and spread within the said frame (Col.4, lines 50-52). Since the concrete slab is poured and spread within the frame, the width of the concrete panels will end up equaling the height of at least one of the sides of the frame in order to produce the desired panel dimensions;

a plurality of corners disposed at intersections of said sides and includes two adjacent corners supporting one side member (see Figure 1);

the said frame that includes said base, sides and corners is set to receive a batch of concrete (Co.3, line 29) ;

the frame is raised at a new elevated level and the casting cycle is repeated (Col.5, lines 6-7) in order to form the subsequent said concrete panels;

each said adjacent corners include jack assemblies (20), (22), (23), and (24) (upright members) comprising a jack pole (26) (column) with holes (28), each column has a collar (82) with arms (86) and (88). Holes (locating means) (28) in these arms are brought in to register with holes (36) in rods (32) and (34) and held at that level by L-pins (90). Along with the said collar with arms, a hydraulic cylinder (30) located at the top of jack pole (26) together operates the beam (60) to define a forming space for the subsequent panels wherein the space corresponds to the thickness of a plurality of said panels (Col.3, lines 71-75 through Col.4, lines 1-5).

VEALE is silent to a second upright member pivotable in a vertical plane between a first and second position. However, PLOUGH discloses a corner fastening device for

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concrete column form shaped in rectangular panels. The form is comprised of two composite right angle sections which are hingedly or pivotally connected together in order that they are capable of being swung toward and away from each other between a closed position (first position) wherein the panels assume their quadrilateral relationship and define a rectangular void within which wet concrete may be poured for column-forming purposes, and an open position (second position) of release wherein the column form is capable of being removed laterally from the hardened concrete column (Col.2, lines 6-15). The framework comprises vertical frame members (24) and horizontal top and bottom frame members (26) (Col.4, lines 17-20). The frame panels (14) and (16) are hingedly connected together along adjacent vertical edges by a vertical hinge (52) that's secured to upright vertical frame member (24) (Col.5, lines 23-34). The device is a quick-release fastening device for fixedly but releasably securing together the vertical outer end edges of two pivotally connected right angle sections of a concrete column form (Abstract, Col.2, lines 24-27), and further including a retaining element (96) provided to retain the first and second upright members (Col.6, lines 25-44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have utilized the said upright vertical frame member that is pivotable from a closed position (first position) to an open position (second position) as taught by PLOUGH in the formwork of HALBERSTADT in order to provide secure column during a concrete pouring process and releasability of the column formwork from the hardened concrete column (Col.2, lines 1-23).

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stella Yi whose telephone number is 571-270-5123. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Johnson can be reached on 571-272-1176. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SY

/Jeff Wollschlager/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791